



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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After the prolonged power outages brought on by Hurricane Sandy, residents may be considering purchasing a generator for their homes. Here are some things to remember if you are considering a generator:

**Residential Generator Requirements (Permanent)**

The following permits are required from City of White Plains Building Department:

- ✓ Mechanical
- ✓ Electrical

*Note:* A Westchester County licensed electrician must be used

- ✓ Plumbing

*Note:* A plumbing permit is only required if the generator uses natural or propane gas;  
A Westchester County licensed plumber must be used;  
Gas service must be checked to confirm if the additional load of the generator can be accommodated.

**Relevant Issues:**

1. Location on property. Accessory structure setback requirements apply.
2. Noise. A maximum 65 decibels at property line is allowed.

**Residential Generator Requirements (Portable)**

The following permits are required from City of White Plains Building Department:

- ✓ Electrical

*Note:* A Westchester County licensed electrician must be used for permanent connections

- ✓ Plumbing

*Note:* A plumbing permit is only required if the generator uses natural or propane gas;  
A Westchester County licensed plumber must be used;  
Gas service must be checked to confirm if the additional load of the generator can be accommodated.

**Relevant issues:**

1. Locate **outdoors** – a *minimum* of 10 ft. away from operable windows. Unit is a source of carbon monoxide.
2. Noise. A maximum of 65 decibels at property line is allowed.
3. Be respectful of neighbors. A good practice is to shut unit off when not needed or at night.

Please contact the City of White Plains Building Department at (914) 422-1269 if you have any questions.